

# Sterile neutrino searches at future colliders

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One of the big open questions in  
BSM physics:

What is the origin of the observed  
neutrinos masses?

# Outline

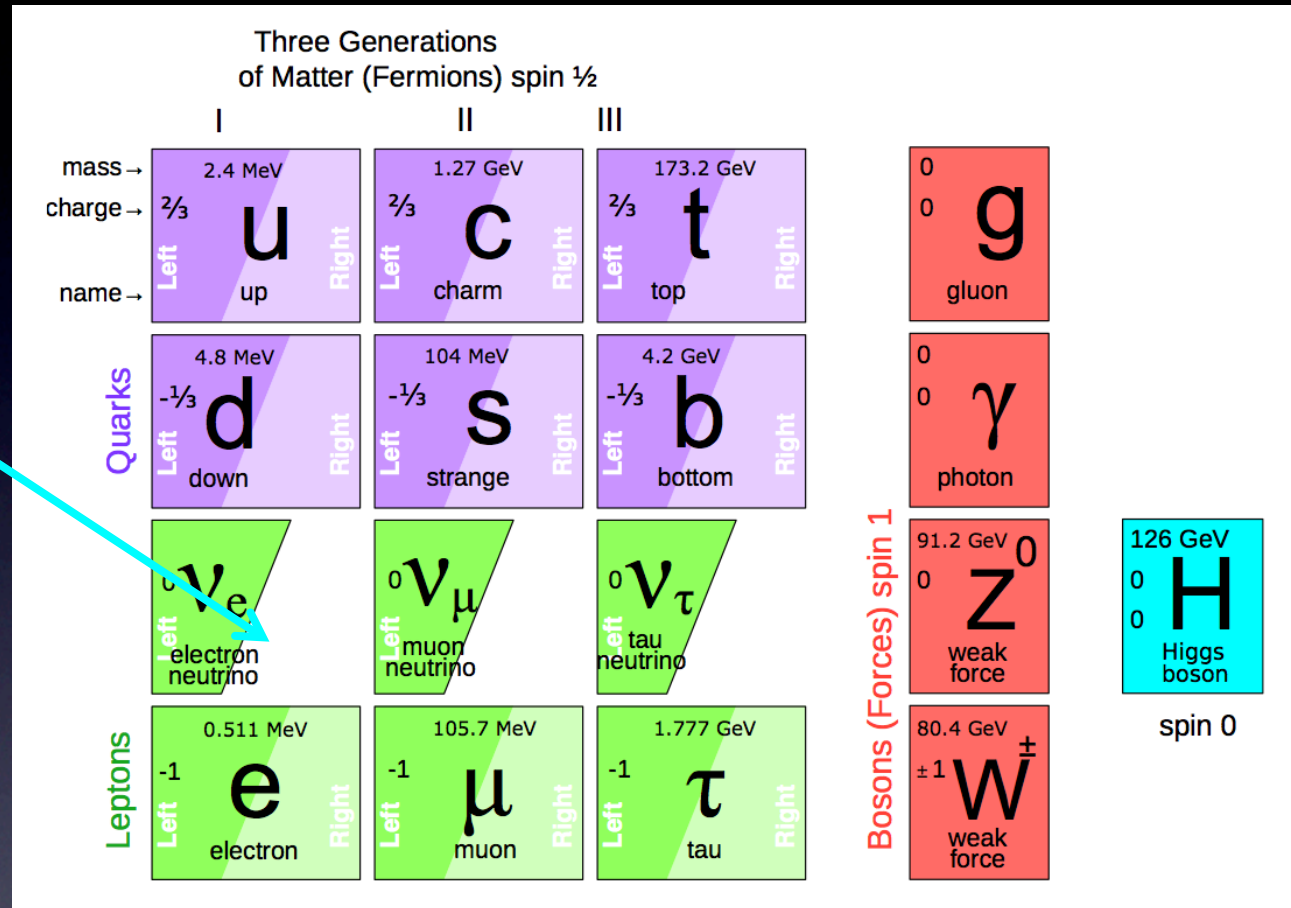
- Introduction: Some basics on sterile neutrinos
- Then: focus on EW scale sterile neutrinos. How can there be sterile neutrinos with mass  $M \sim \Lambda_{EW}$  and “large” Yukawa couplings  $Y_\nu$ ?
- Which observable effects allow to test such models?
  - $M \gg \Lambda_{EW}$ : “Non-unitarity effects” (indirect tests)
  - $M \sim \Lambda_{EW}$ : On-shell heavy neutrino effects (direct tests at colliders, various promising signature processes)
  - $M < m_W$ : Very sensitive searches via “displaced vertices” at colliders
- Discovery prospects at possible future colliders (ee, ep and pp)



# Sterile (= right-chiral) neutrinos?

There are no right-chiral neutrino states ( $\nu_{Ri}$ ) in the Standard Model

→  $\nu_{Ri}$  would be completely neutral under all SM symmetries



Adding  $\nu_{Ri}$  leads to the following extra terms in the Lagrangian density:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{1}{2} \overline{\nu_R^I} M_{IJ}^N \nu_R^{cJ} - (Y_N)_{I\alpha} \overline{\nu_R^I} \tilde{\phi}^\dagger L^\alpha + \text{H.c.}$$

M: sterile  $\nu$  mass matrix

$Y_N$ : neutrino Yukawa matrix  
(Dirac mass terms)



# Light neutrino masses via the seesaw mechanism

Mass matrix of the (three) light neutrinos

Mass matrix of the (2+n) sterile (= right-handed) neutrinos (masses of Majorana-type)

$$(m_\nu)_{\alpha\beta} = - \frac{v_{EW}^2}{2} (Y_\nu^T \cdot M^{-1} \cdot Y_\nu)_{\alpha\beta}$$

Valid for  $v_{EW} Y_\nu \ll M_R$

**„Seesaw Formula“**

From neutrino oscillation experiments and mass searches:

$$\begin{aligned} |m_3^2 - m_1^2| &\approx 2.4 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2 \\ m_2^2 - m_1^2 &\approx 7.5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2 \\ \text{all three } m_i &\text{ below } \sim 0.2 \text{ eV} \end{aligned}$$

+ measurements of the **leptonic mixing angles** (from neutrino osc. experiments)

Neutrino Yukawa matrix

P. Minkowski ('77), Mohapatra, Senjanovic, Yanagida, Gell-Mann, Ramond, Slansky, Schechter, Valle, ...

Note: At least two sterile neutrinos are required  
→ generate masses for two of the light neutrinos  
(necessary for realizing the two observed mass splittings)

What do the measured light neutrino parameters tell us about the sterile neutrino parameters  $M$ ,  $Y_\nu$ ?



# *What do we know about the neutrino parameters?*

Getting started:  $1 \nu_R, 1 \nu_L$

$$\Rightarrow m_\nu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{v_{EW}^2 |y_\nu|^2}{M_R}$$

→ Knowledge of  $m_\nu$  implies relation between  $y_\nu$  and  $M_R$

“Naive” seesaw relation:  $y_\nu^2 < O(10^{-13}) (M / 100 \text{ GeV})$

# What do we know about the sterile neutrino parameters?

Example 1:  $2 \nu_R, 2 \nu_L$

Example of a small perturbation

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma(y_\nu) & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma(y_\nu) \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} M_R & 0 \\ 0 & M_R + \epsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow m_{\nu_i} = \frac{v_{EW}^2 \sigma(y_\nu^2)}{M_R} (1 + \epsilon \delta_{i2})$

→ Also in this example: Knowledge of  $m_{\nu_i}$  implies relation between  $y_{\nu_i}$  and  $M_R$



# What do we know about the sterile neutrino parameters?

## Example 2: $2 \nu_R, 2 \nu_L$

Similar: “inverse” seesaw, “linear” seesaw

See e.g.: D. Wyler, L. Wolfenstein ('83), R. N. Mohapatra, J. W. F. Valle ('86), M. Shaposhnikov ('07), J. Kersten, A. Y. Smirnov ('07), M. B. Gavela, T. Hambye, D. Hernandez, P. Hernandez ('09), M. Malinsky, J. C. Romao, J. W. F. Valle ('05), ...

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma(y_\nu) & 0 \\ \sigma(y_\nu) & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_R \\ M_R & \epsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow m_\nu = 0 + \epsilon \frac{v_{EW}^2 \sigma(y_\nu^2)}{M_R^2}$$

Example of a small perturbation

→ In general: No “fixed relation” between  $y_\nu$  and  $M_R$ , larger  $y_\nu$  possible!

# What do we know about the sterile neutrino parameters?

Example 2:  $2 \nu_R, 2 \nu_L$

Similar: “inverse” seesaw, “linear” seesaw

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma(y_\nu) & 0 \\ \sigma(y_\nu) & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_R \\ M_R & \epsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow m_\nu = 0 + \epsilon \frac{v_{EW}^2 \sigma(y_\nu^2)}{M_R^2}$$

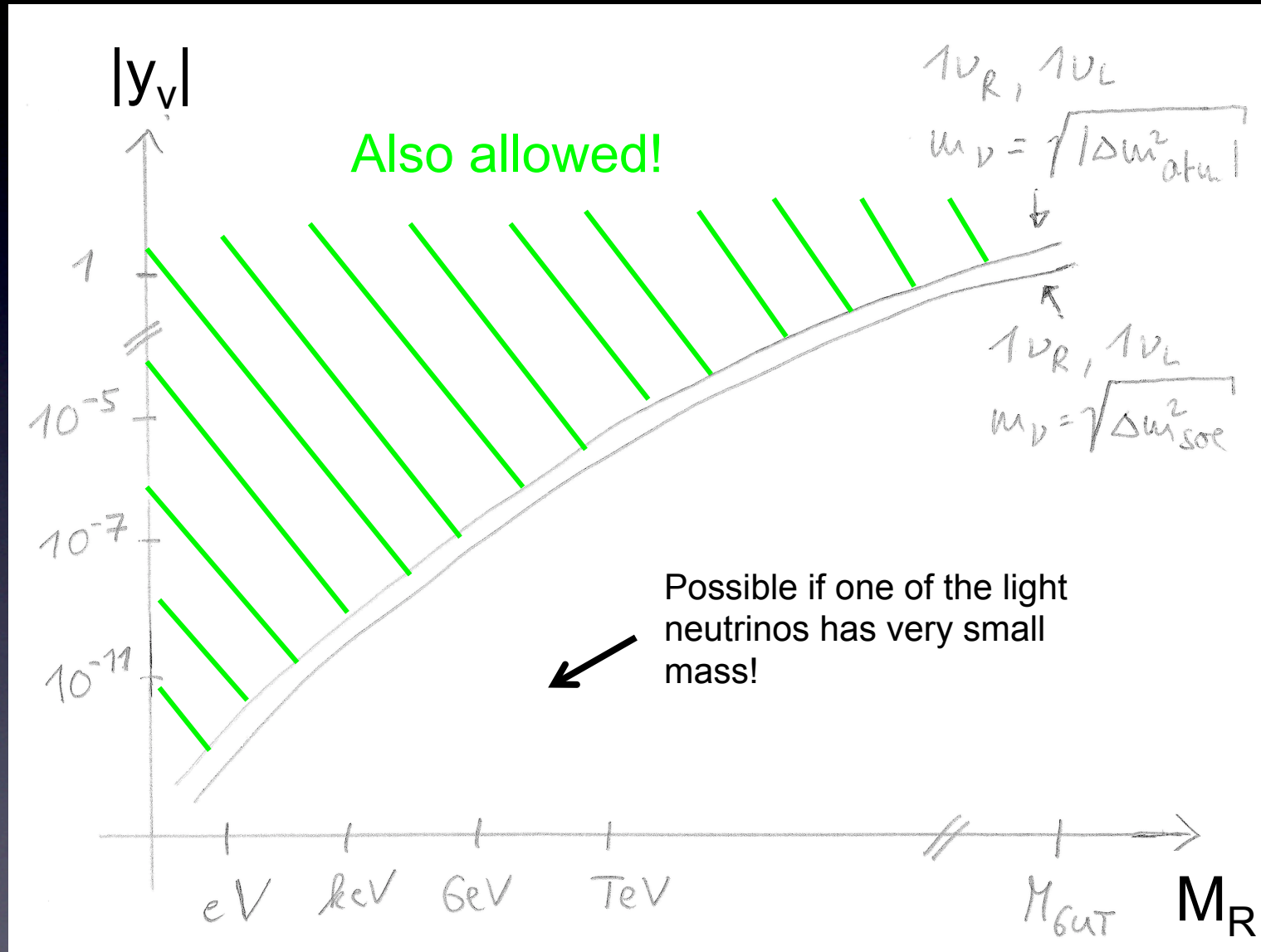
Example for “protective” symmetry:

	$L_\alpha$	$\nu_{R1}$	$\nu_{R2}$
Lepton-#	+1	+1	-1

Note: Can be realized by symmetries, e.g. by an (approximate) “lepton number”-like symmetry



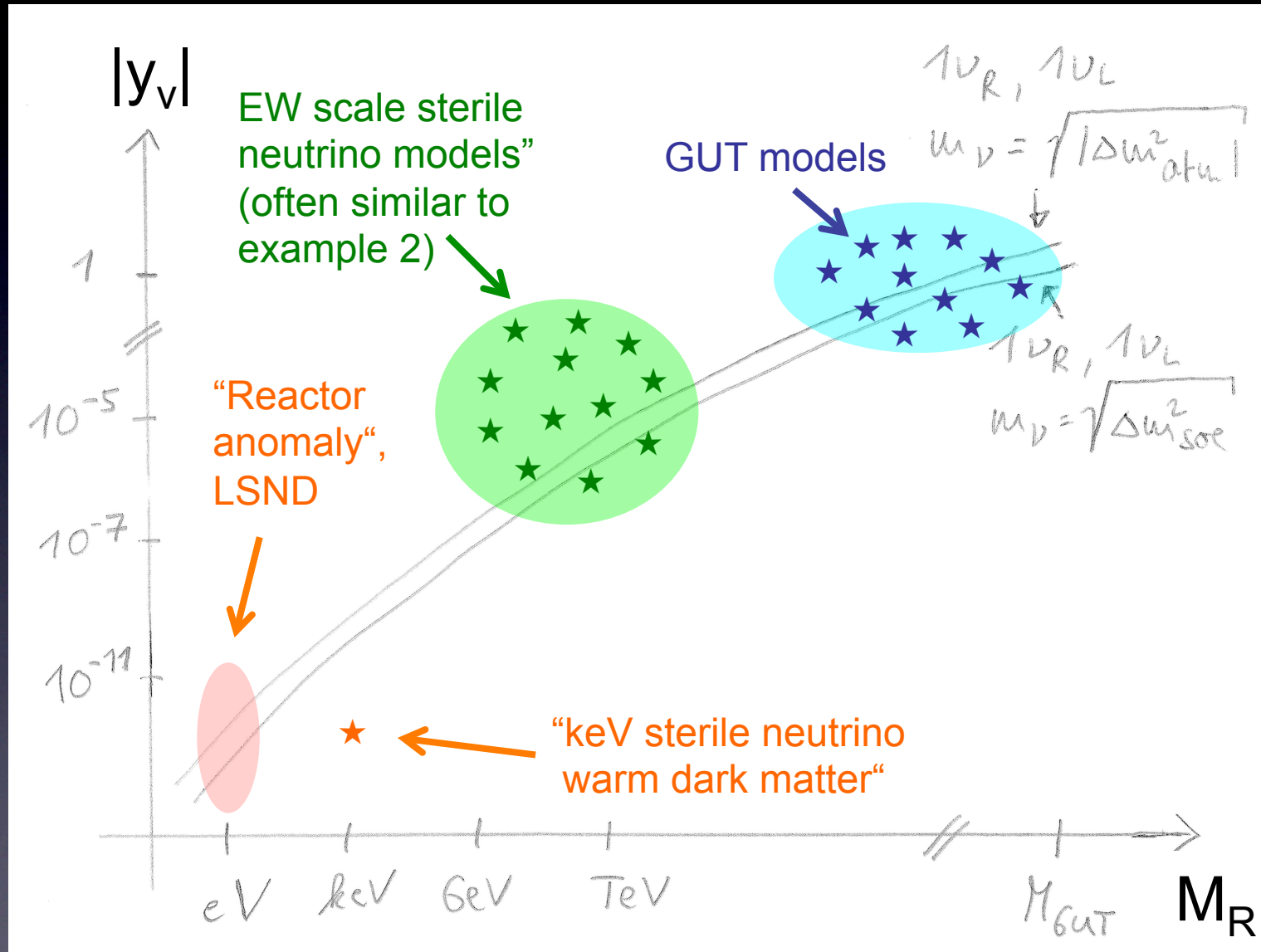
# Possible values of $M_R$ and $y_\nu$



Not considering experimental constraints

# “Landscape” of sterile neutrino models

Examples, schematic

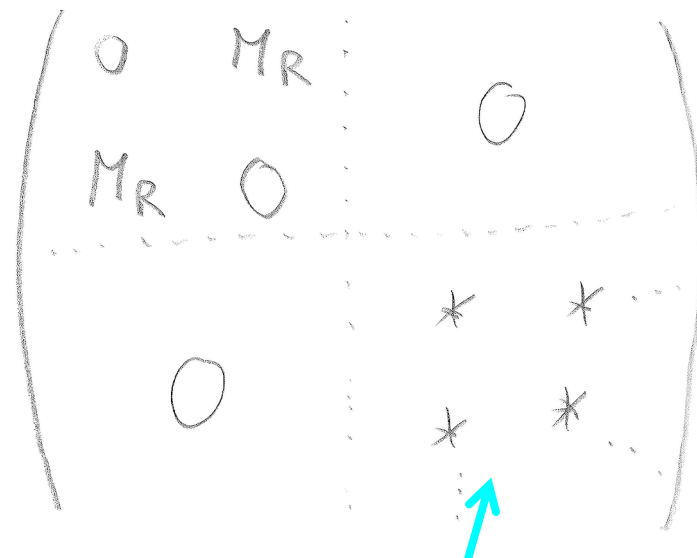


Not considering experimental constraints



# A benchmark model for EW scale sterile $\nu$ : **SPSS (Symmetry Protected Seesaw Scenario)**

Consider  $2+n$  sterile neutrinos (plus the three active)  $\rightarrow$  with  $M$  and  $Y_\nu$  for two of the steriles as in example 2 due to some generic “lepton number”-like symmetry)

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\nu e} & 0 \\ y_{\nu \mu} & 0 \\ y_{\nu \tau} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_R & & \\ M_R & 0 & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$


+  $O(\epsilon)$   
perturbations  
to generate the  
light neutrino  
mass  
(which we can  
often neglect for  
collider studies)

Similar: “inverse” seesaw, “linear” seesaw

For details on the SPSS, see:

S.A., O. Fischer (arXiv:1502.05915)

Additional sterile neutrinos can exist, but have no effects at colliders (which can be realised easily, e.g. by giving lepton number = 0 to them).

# A benchmark model for SPSS (Symmetry Protection)

Consider  $2+n$  sterile neutrinos (plus the three active ones) as in example 2 due to some  $g$

Note: Since in the SPSS we allow for additional sterile neutrinos,  $M$  and  $y_\alpha$  ( $\alpha=e,\mu,\tau$ ) are indeed free parameters (not constrained by  $m_\nu$ ). In specific models there are correlations among the  $y_\alpha$ . Strategy of the SPSS: study how to measure the  $y_\alpha$  independently, in order to test (not a priori assume) such correlations!

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\nu e} & 0 \\ y_{\nu \mu} & 0 \\ y_{\nu \tau} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_R & 0 \\ M_R & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

$+ O(\epsilon)$   
perturbations  
to generate the  
light neutrino  
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(which we can  
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Similar: “inverse” seesaw, “linear” seesaw

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Additional sterile neutrinos can exist, but have no effects at colliders (which can be realised easily, e.g. by giving lepton number = 0 to them).



# Testing specific low scale seesaw models: Examples

# A benchmark model for SPSS (Symmetry Protection)

Consider  $2+n$  sterile neutrinos (plus the three active ones) and treat the steriles as in example 2 due to some  $\epsilon$

**Note:** Since in the SPSS we allow for additional sterile neutrinos,  $M$  and  $y_\alpha$  ( $\alpha=e,\mu,\tau$ ) are indeed free parameters (not constrained by  $m_\nu$ ). In specific models there are correlations among the  $y_\alpha$ . Strategy of the SPSS: study how to measure the  $y_\alpha$  independently, in order to test (not a priori assume) such correlations!

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\nu e} & 0 \\ y_{\nu \mu} & 0 \\ y_{\nu \tau} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_R & \\ M_R & 0 & \\ & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

+  $O(\epsilon)$   
perturbations  
to generate the  
neutrino

**For example: Low scale seesaw with 2 sterile neutrinos:  $y_\alpha/y_\beta$  given in terms of the PMNS parameters. E.g. for NO:**

$$Y_N^T \simeq y \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\delta} s_{13} + e^{-i\alpha} s_{12} r^{1/4} \\ s_{23} \left( 1 - \frac{\sqrt{r}}{2} \right) + e^{-i\alpha} r^{1/4} c_{12} c_{23} \\ c_{23} \left( 1 - \frac{\sqrt{r}}{2} \right) - e^{-i\alpha} r^{1/4} c_{12} s_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

we can  
neglect for  
studies)

For details on the SPSS, see:

S.A., O. Fischer (arXiv:1502.05915)

Cf.: Gavela, Hambye, D. Hernandez, P. Hernandez ('09)



# Further predictions in specific types of low scale seesaw mechanisms: $\Delta M$ of heavy $\nu$ 's

\*) Basis:  $(\nu_L^\alpha, N_1, N_2)$

Perturbations of the mass matrix:  $M_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D & \epsilon_{\text{lin}} \\ (m_D)^T & \tilde{\epsilon} & M \\ \epsilon_{\text{lin}}^T & M & \epsilon_{\text{inv}} \end{pmatrix}$

$\epsilon_{\text{lin}}$  linear seesaw

$\epsilon_{\text{inv}}$  inverse seesaw

( $\tilde{\epsilon}$  additional parameter, no contribution to light neutrino masses)

Perturbations  $O(\epsilon)$  generate the light neutrino masses and, e.g. in the case of the minimal linear seesaw model, lead to a **prediction for the heavy neutrino mass splitting  $\Delta M$  (in terms of the light neutrino mass splittings)**:

$$\Delta M^{\text{lin,NO}} = \frac{2\rho_{\text{NO}}}{1-\rho_{\text{NO}}} \sqrt{\Delta m_{21}^2} = 0.0416 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta M^{\text{lin,IO}} = \frac{2\rho_{\text{IO}}}{1+\rho_{\text{IO}}} \sqrt{\Delta m_{23}^2} = 0.000753 \text{ eV}$$

$$\rho_{\text{NO}} = \frac{\sqrt{r+1}-\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{r}+\sqrt{r+1}} \text{ and } r = \frac{|\Delta m_{21}^2|}{|\Delta m_{32}^2|}$$

$$\rho_{\text{IO}} = \frac{\sqrt{r+1}-1}{\sqrt{r+1}+1} \text{ and } r = \frac{|\Delta m_{21}^2|}{|\Delta m_{13}^2|}$$

Cf.: S.A., E. Cazzato, O. Fischer (arXiv:1709.03797)

... More about this later in my talk!

# What are the observable effects of EW scale sterile neutrinos?

(This part we neglect the  $O(\varepsilon)$  effects; will be discussed later ...)



# We consider the SPSS: Instead of the $y_\alpha$ , we use the active sterile mixing angles $\theta_\alpha$ , ( $\alpha=e,\mu,\tau$ )

In the  
symmetry  
limit:

$$\mathcal{L}_N = - \overline{N_R}^1 M N_R^c - y_\alpha \overline{N_R}^1 \tilde{\phi}^\dagger L^\alpha + \text{H.c.} \\ + \dots \text{ (terms from additional sterile vs)}$$

- The leptonic mixing matrix to leading order in the active-sterile mixing parameters:

$$U_{5 \times 5} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{N}_{1e} & \mathcal{N}_{1\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{1\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_e & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_e \\ \mathcal{N}_{2e} & \mathcal{N}_{2\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{2\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_\mu & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_\mu \\ \mathcal{N}_{3e} & \mathcal{N}_{3\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{3\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_\tau & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_\tau \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\theta_e^* & -\theta_\mu^* & -\theta_\tau^* & \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} (1 - \frac{1}{2} \theta^2) & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1 - \frac{1}{2} \theta^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

**Parameters:**  
 **$M, y_\alpha$ , ( $\alpha=e,\mu,\tau$ )**  
**or equivalently**  
 **$M, \theta_\alpha$ , ( $\alpha=e,\mu,\tau$ )**

- Active-sterile neutrino mixing parameters:

$$\theta_\alpha = \frac{y_\alpha^*}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{v_{EW}}{M}, \quad \alpha = e, \mu, \tau$$

# Observable effects of the sterile neutrinos: $M \gg \Lambda_{EW}$

(Effective) mixing matrix of light neutrinos is a submatrix of a larger unitary mixing matrix (mixing with additional heavy particles)

Main effect for  $M \gg \Lambda_{EW}$ :  
“Leptonic non-unitarity”

Langacker, London ('88); S.A., Biggio, Fernandez-Martinez, Gavela, Lopez-Pavon ('06), ...  
Gives rise to NSIs at source, detector & with matter: see e.g. S.A., Baumann, Fernandez-Martinez (arXiv:0807.1003)  
Global constraints on  $\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}$ : S.A., Fischer (arXiv:1407.6607)

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{N}_{1e} & \mathcal{N}_{1\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{1\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_e & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_e \\ \mathcal{N}_{2e} & \mathcal{N}_{2\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{2\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\mu & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\mu \\ \mathcal{N}_{3e} & \mathcal{N}_{3\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{3\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\tau & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\tau \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\theta_e^* & -\theta_\mu^* & -\theta_\tau^* & \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}}(1 - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2) & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1 - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Non-unitarity parameters:

$$(NN^\dagger)_{\alpha\beta} = (1_{\alpha\beta} + \epsilon_{\alpha\beta})$$

$\Rightarrow U_{PMNS} \equiv N$  is non-unitary  $\Rightarrow$  various obs. effects!



# Relation to the parameters of the SPSS benchmark model

	$y_{\nu\alpha}$	$\theta_\alpha$	$\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}$
$y_{\nu\alpha} =$	—	$\frac{\sqrt{2}M}{v_{EW}} \theta_\alpha^*$	$-\frac{\sqrt{2}M}{v_{EW}} \varepsilon_{\beta\alpha} / \sqrt{-\varepsilon_{\beta\beta}}$
$\theta_\alpha =$	$\frac{v_{EW}}{\sqrt{2}M} y_{\nu\alpha}^*$	—	$-\varepsilon_{\beta\alpha} / \sqrt{-\varepsilon_{\beta\beta}}$
$\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} =$	$-\frac{v_{EW}^2 y_{\nu\alpha}^* y_{\nu\beta}}{2M^2}$	$-\theta_\alpha^* \theta_\beta$	—

Non-unitarity  
parameters

Active-sterile  
neutrino mixing

# Observable effects of the sterile neutrinos: $M \cong \Lambda_{EW}$

In addition for  $M \cong \Lambda_{EW}$ : Effects  
from on-shell heavy neutrinos

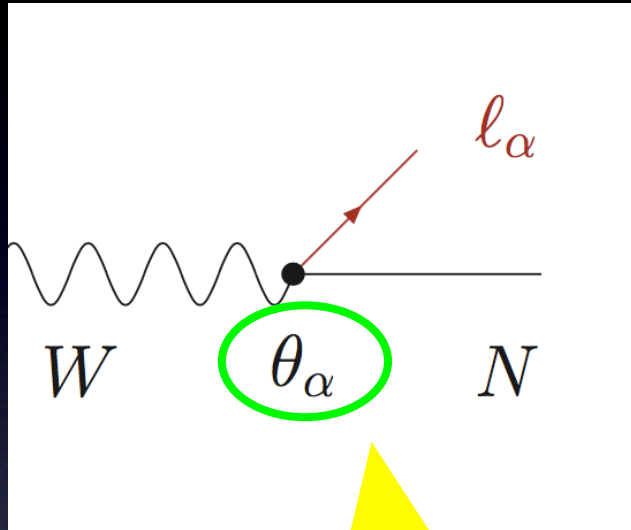
Sterile neutrinos mix with the  
active ones  $\rightarrow$  the heavy neutrinos  
(= mass eigenstates) participate in  
weak interactions!

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{N}_{1e} & \mathcal{N}_{1\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{1\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_e & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_e \\ \mathcal{N}_{2e} & \mathcal{N}_{2\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{2\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\mu & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\mu \\ \mathcal{N}_{3e} & \mathcal{N}_{3\mu} & \mathcal{N}_{3\tau} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\tau & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\theta_\tau \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\theta_e^* & -\theta_\mu^* & -\theta_\tau^* & \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}}(1 - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2) & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1 - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

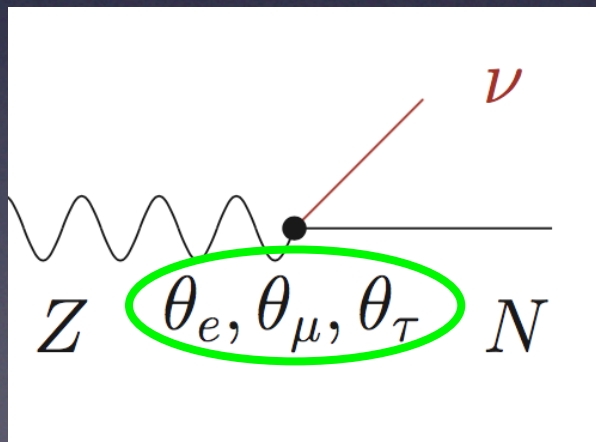
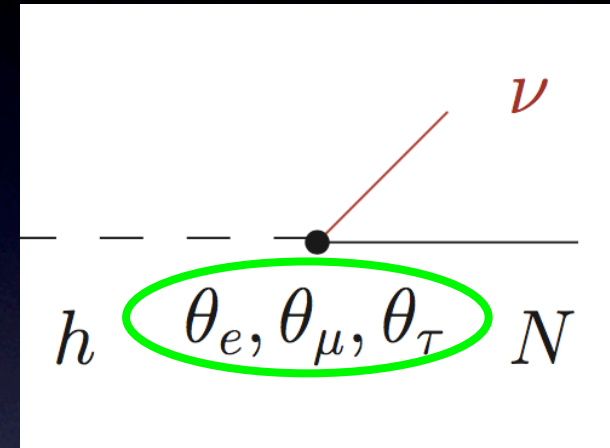
$\Rightarrow$  heavy neutrinos can get produced  
also in weak interaction processes!



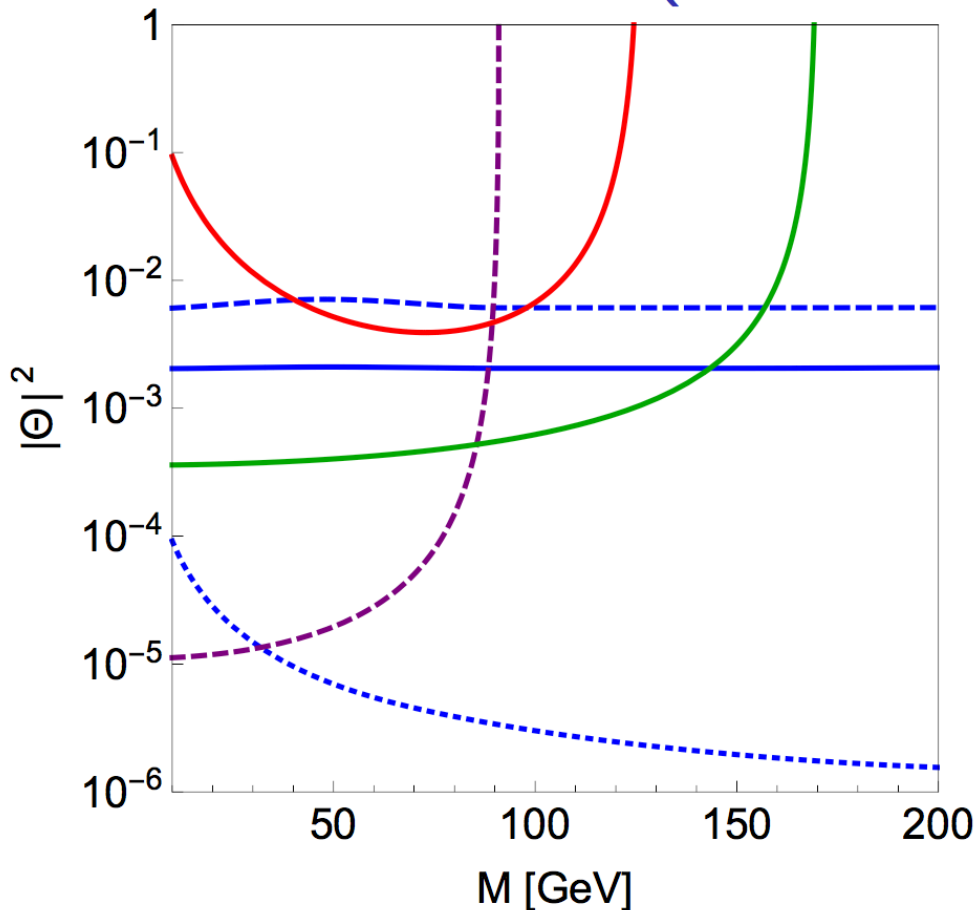
# Heavy neutrino interactions



When  $W$  bosons are involved, there is a possible sensitivity to the flavour-dependent  $\theta_\alpha$



# Present constraints on sterile neutrino parameters (conv. searches, $M > 10$ GeV)



- DELPHI (Z pole search) @ $2\sigma$ :  $|\Theta|^2 = |\theta|^2$
- LHC (Higgs decays) @ $1\sigma$ :  $|\Theta|^2 = |\theta|^2$
- ALEPH ( $e^-e^+ \rightarrow 4$  leptons) @ $1\sigma$ :  $|\Theta|^2 = |\theta_e|^2$
- Precision constraints @ $2\sigma$ :  $|\Theta|^2 = |\theta_e|^2$
- ... Precision constraints @ $2\sigma$ :  $|\Theta|^2 = |\theta_\mu|^2$
- .- Precision constraints @ $2\sigma$ :  $|\Theta|^2 = |\theta_\tau|^2$   
(global constraints, including EWPO and cLFV)

with:  $|\theta|^2 := \sum_{\alpha} |\theta_{\alpha}|^2$

Constraints from present data ( $M > 10$  GeV): [S.A., O. Fischer \(arXiv:1502.05915\)](#)

For a similar study, see also: [E. Fernandez-Martinez, J. Hernandez-Garcia, J. Lopez-Pavon \(arXiv:1605.08774\)](#)

Constraints for smaller  $M$ , see e.g.: [M. Drewes, B. Garbrecht \(arXiv:1502.00477\)](#)

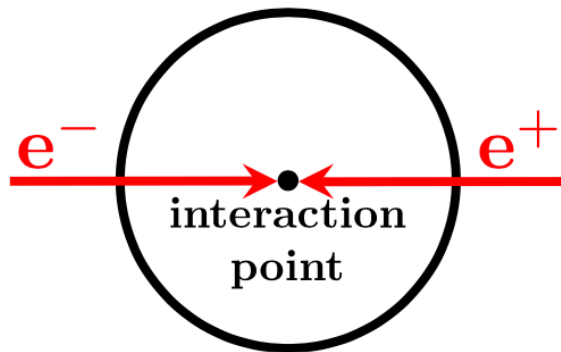


# Very sensitive searches possible for $M < m_W$ via “displaced vertices”

E.g. at an  $e^+e^-$  collider:

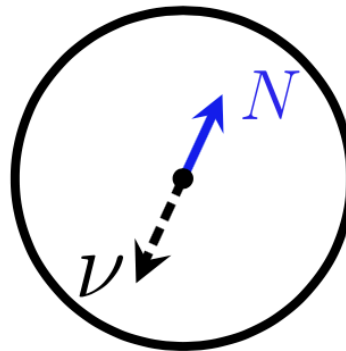
$t = 0$

electron-positron  
collision



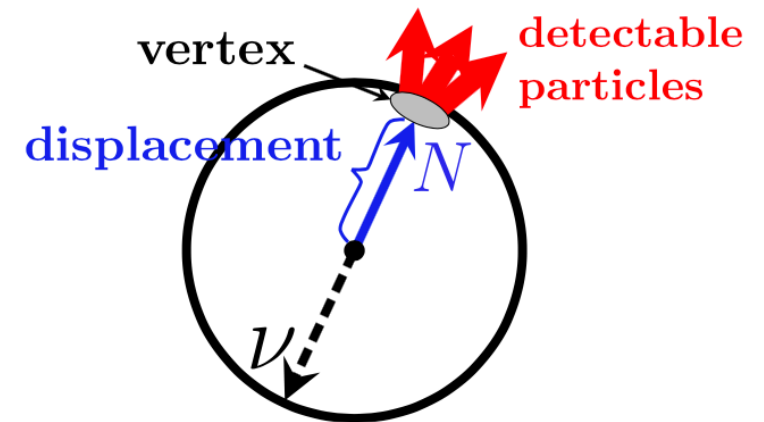
$0 < t < \text{lifetime of } N$

production of  $N$   
and propagation

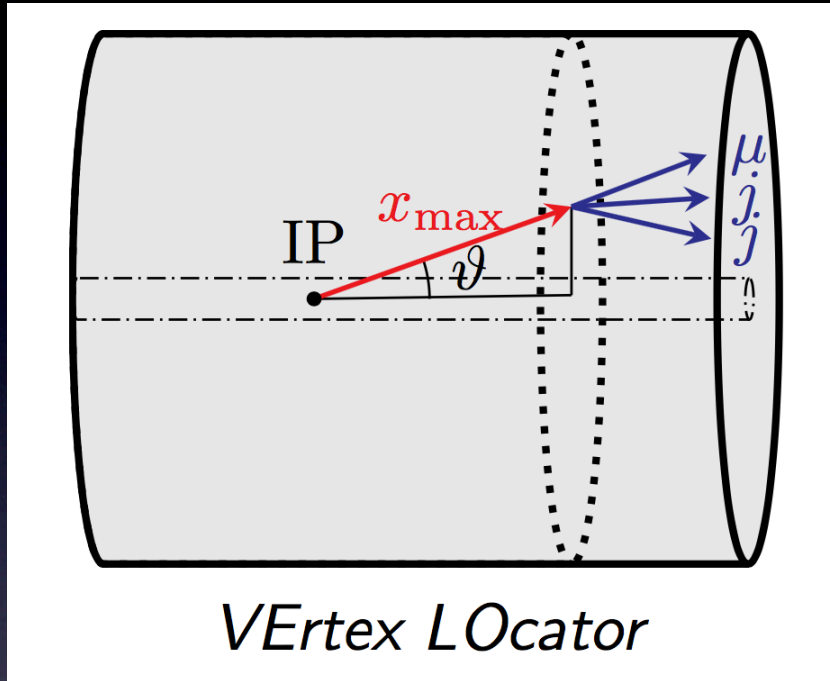


$\text{lifetime of } N < t$

decay of  $N$  into  
detectable particles



# Present bounds (& estim. future sensitivities) from displaced vertex searches at LHCb



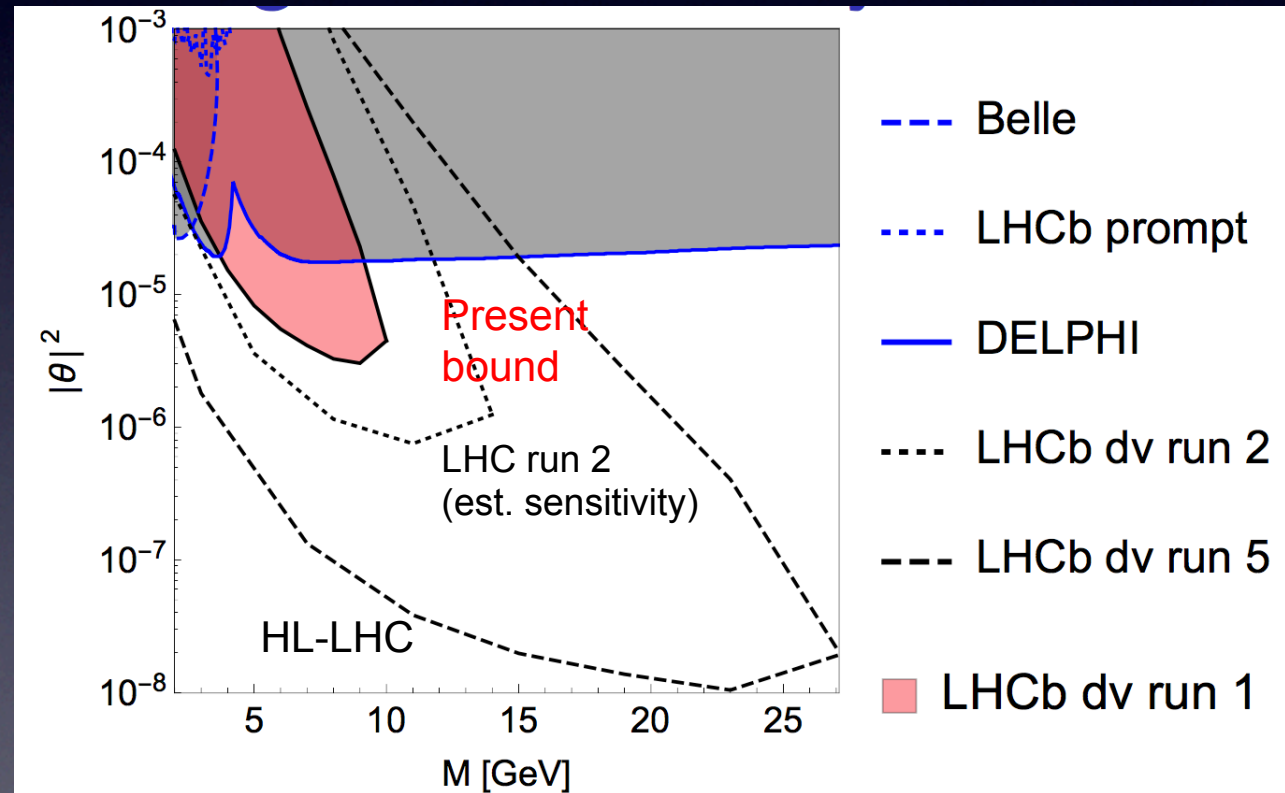
Remark: Forecasts for the sensitivities at Atlas and CMS for the HL-LHC phase are comparable, cf.:

E. Izaguirre, B. Shuve (2015)

LHCb analysis exists for LHC run 1 data:

LHCb Collaboration, Eur. Phys. J. C 77 (2017) no.4, 224 arXiv:1612.00945

The results can be translated into bounds on  $|\theta|^2$  (here for  $\theta_e = \theta_\tau = 0$ ):



S. A., E. Cazzato, O. Fischer; arXiv:1706.05990



# What are the prospects for discovering sterile neutrinos at future collider experiments?

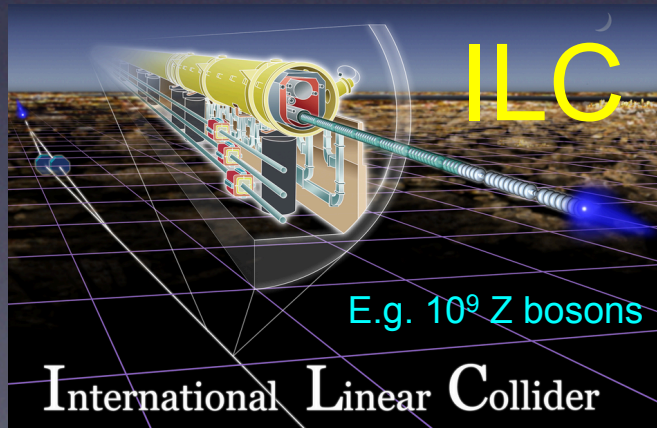
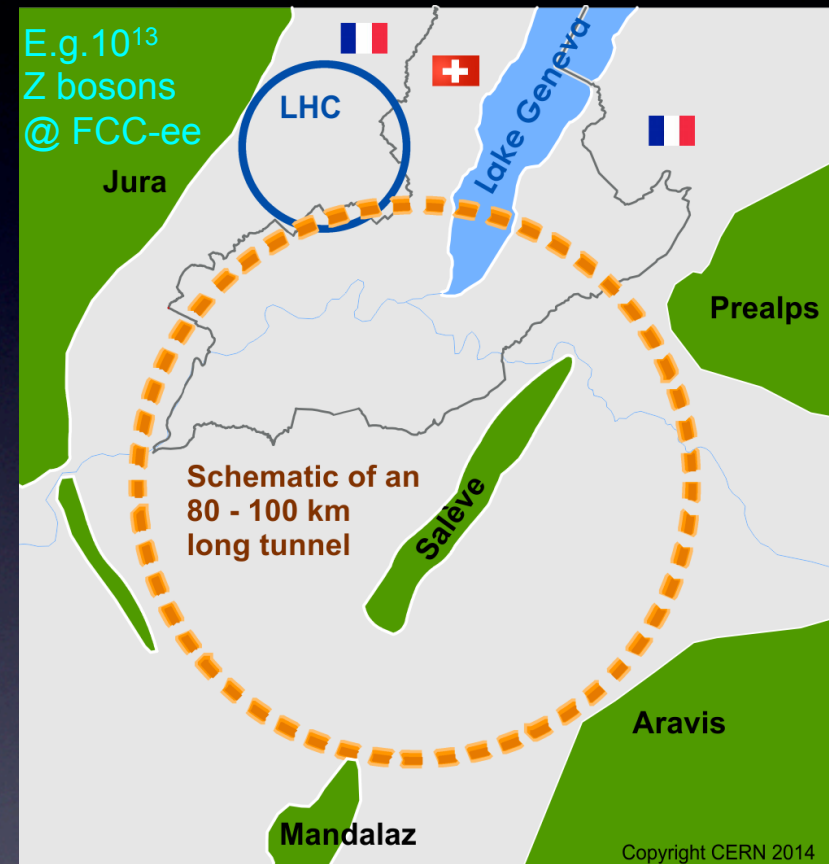
Note: I will consider the SPSS as a benchmark and restrict myself to  $M > 10$  GeV

# Ambitious plans for future colliders ...

## FCC (-ee, -hh, -eh)



plans for circular collider in China

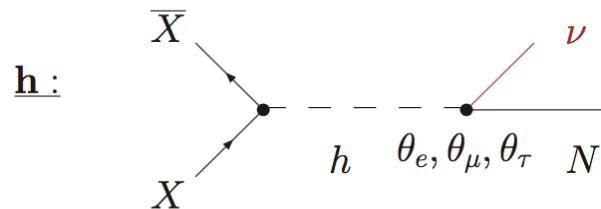
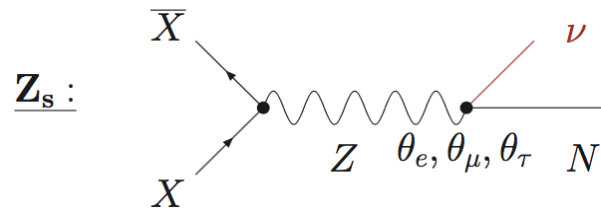
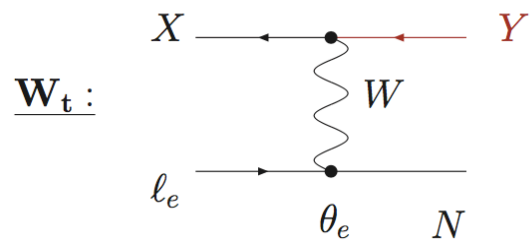
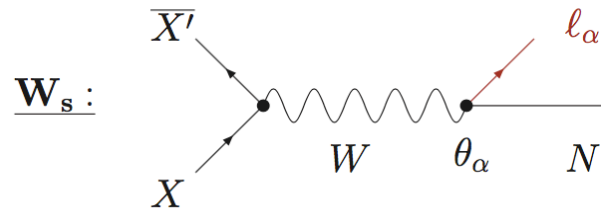


FCC and CEPC may be operated with  $e^+e^-$  (in first stage)  $\rightarrow$  Z,W,h factory



# Systematic assessment of signatures of sterile neutrinos at colliders

S.A., E. Cazzato, O. Fischer (arXiv:1612.02728)

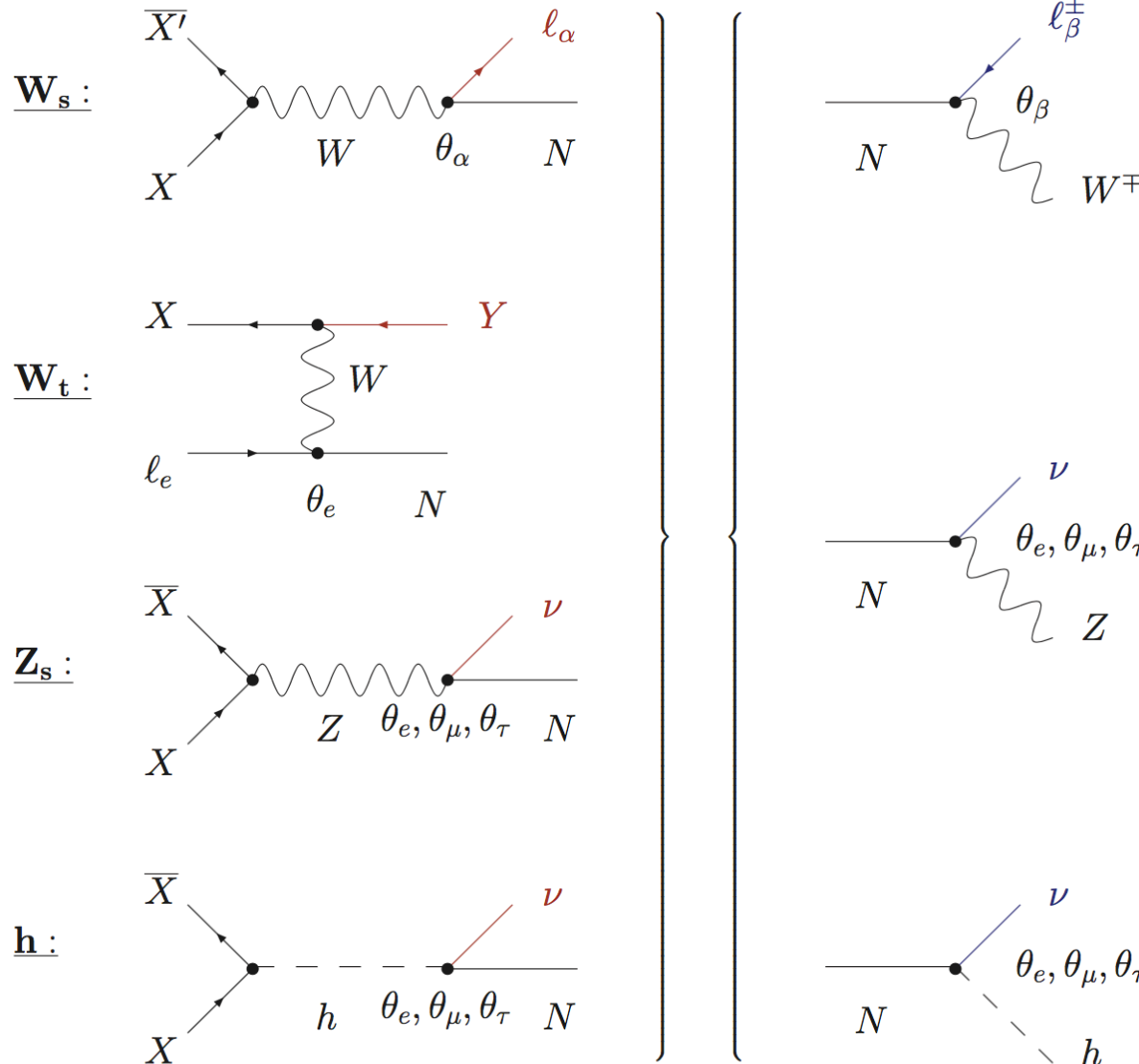


Different collider types feature different production channels ...

	$e^-e^+$	$pp$	$e^-p$
$W_s$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$	$\times$
$W_t$	$\checkmark$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$
$Z_s$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\times$
$h$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$

# Systematic assessment of signatures of sterile neutrinos at colliders

(at LO)



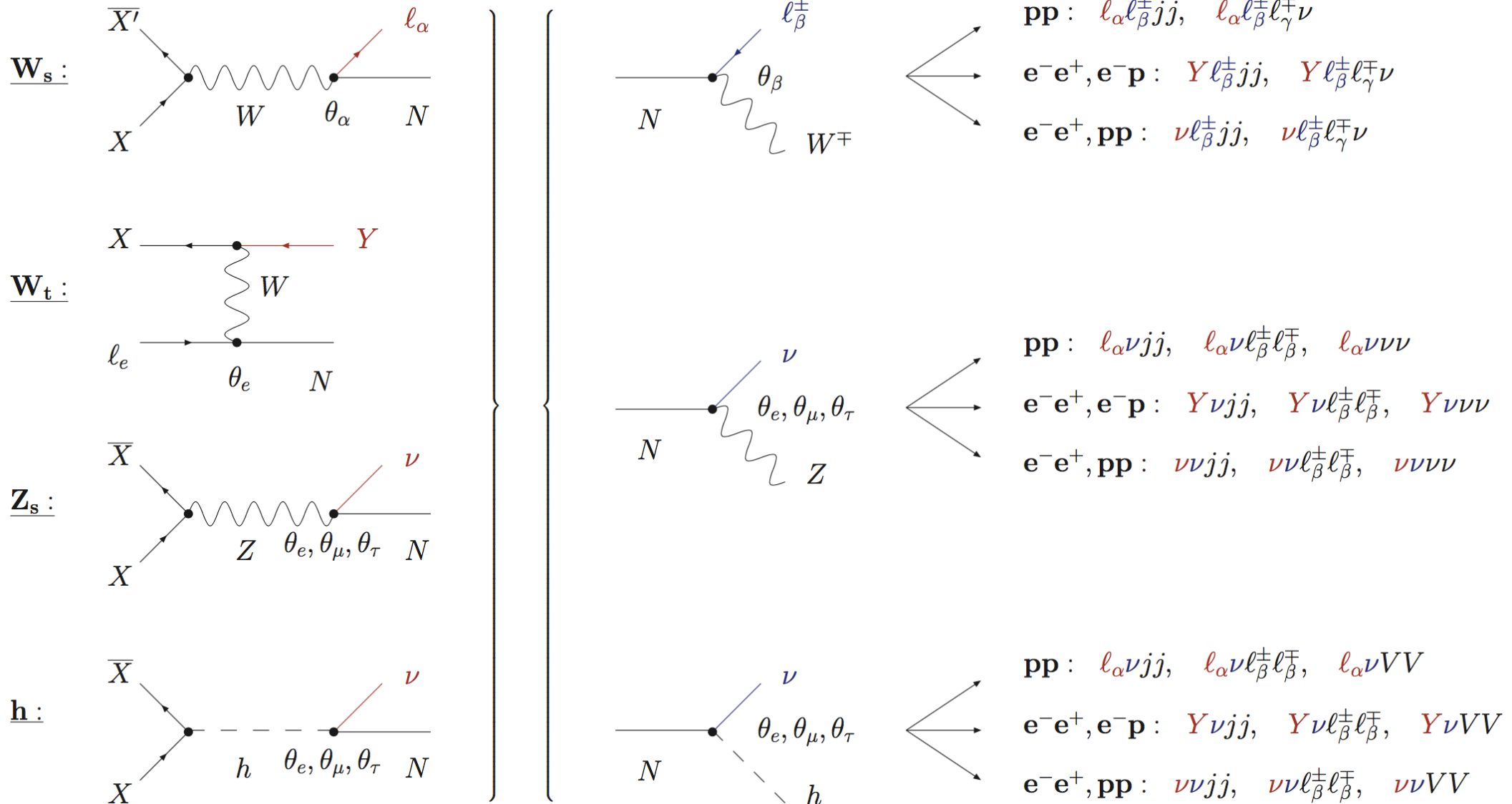
... and, including the different decay channels, sensitivity to different combinations of active-sterile mixing parameters:

		Decay channel	
		$W$	$Z(h)$
Production channel	$\mathbf{W_s}$	$\frac{ \theta_\alpha \theta_\beta ^2}{ \theta ^2}$	$ \theta_\alpha ^2$
	$\mathbf{W_t}$	$\frac{ \theta_e \theta_\beta ^2}{ \theta ^2}$	$ \theta_e ^2$
	$\mathbf{Z_s(h)}$	$ \theta_\beta ^2$	$ \theta ^2$



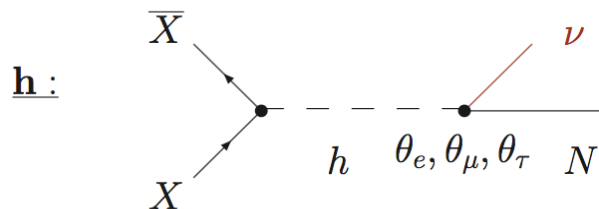
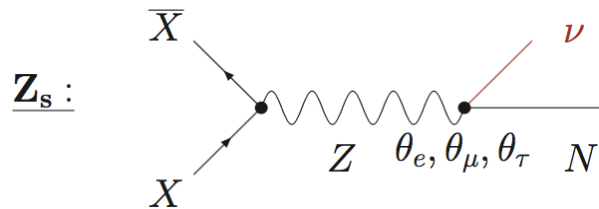
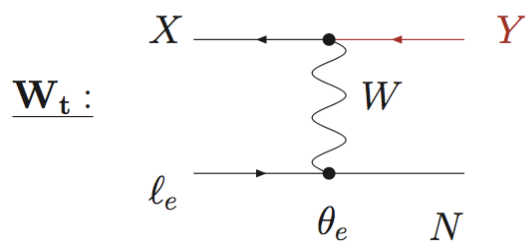
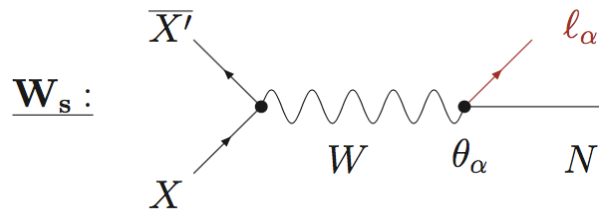
# Systematic assessment of signatures of sterile neutrinos at colliders

(at LO)



# Signatures with lepton flavour violation

(at LO)



Different collider types feature different production channels:

	$e^-e^+$	$pp$	$e^-p$
$\mathbf{W_s}$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$	$\times$
$\mathbf{W_t}$	$\checkmark$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$
$\mathbf{Z_s}$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\times$
$\mathbf{h}$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$

**Lepton flavour violating LFV (and lepton number conserving LNC) signatures possible (with no SM background at parton level\*). Very promising for future searches!**

\*) Note: Relevant SM background from final states with additional light neutrinos!

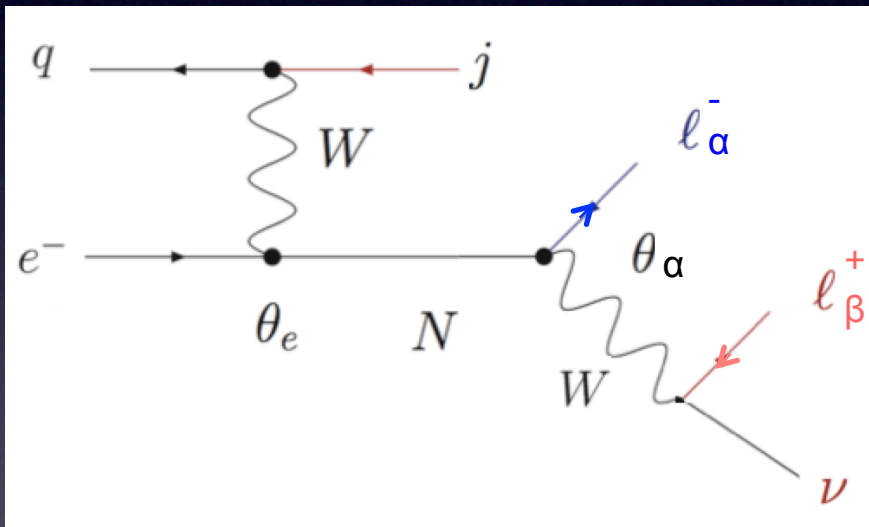


# Signatures with lepton flavour violation

(at LO)

Example: Final state at ep colliders (LHeC, FCC-eh): “jet-dilepton”

$j \ell_\alpha^- \ell_\beta^+ \nu$  with e.g.  $\alpha = \tau^-$  and  $\beta = \mu^+$



Or e.g.: “lepton-trijet” at ep colliders (LHeC, FCC-eh)  $\ell_\alpha^- jjj$  with e.g.  $\alpha = \tau^-$  or  $\mu^-$

Or e.g.: “dilepton-dijet” at pp colliders (LHC, FCC-hh)  $\ell_\alpha^- \ell_\beta^+ jj$  with e.g.  $\alpha \neq \beta$

Different collider types feature different production channels:

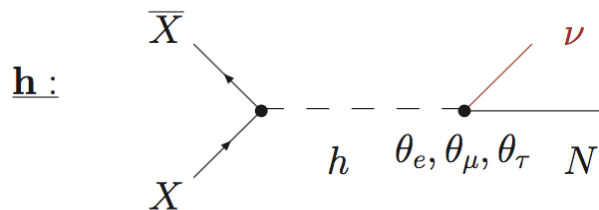
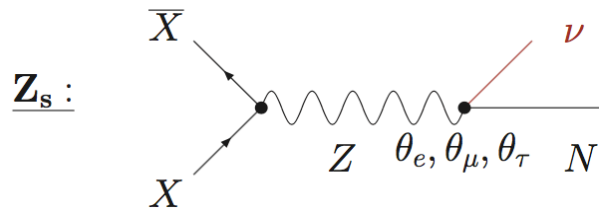
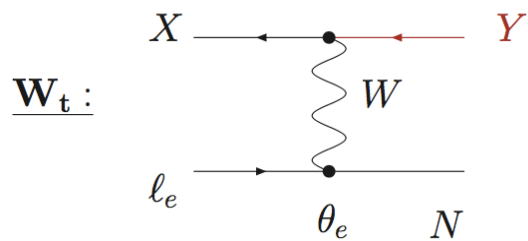
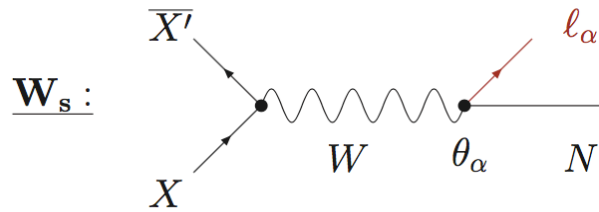
	$e^- e^+$	$pp$	$e^- p$
$W_s$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$	$\times$
$W_t$	$\checkmark$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$
$Z_s$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\times$
$h$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$

**Lepton flavour violating LFV (and L number conserving LNC) signatures possible (with no SM background at parton level\*). Very promising for future searches!**

\*) Note: Relevant SM background from final states with additional light neutrinos!

# Signatures for lepton number violation from sterile neutrinos

(at LO)



Different collider types feature different production channels:

	$e^-e^+$	$p\bar{p}$	$e^-p$
$\mathbf{W_s}$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$	$\times$
$\mathbf{W_t}$	$\checkmark$	$\times$	$\checkmark + \text{LNV/LFV}$
$\mathbf{Z_s}$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\times$
$\mathbf{h}$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$	$(\checkmark)$

Lepton-number violating LNV signatures possible (with no SM background at parton level) but expected to be suppressed by the protective “lepton number”-like symmetry!

However: LNV can get induced by heavy neutrino-antineutrino oscillations!



# Heavy neutrino-antineutrino oscillations at colliders

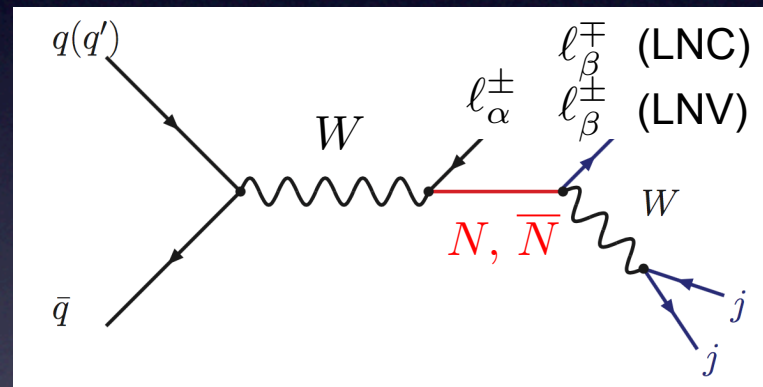
Definition: Heavy (anti)neutrino defined via production; superposition of mass eigenstates  $N_4, N_5$

antineutrino,  $W^- \rightarrow \bar{N}\ell^-$   
 neutrino,  $W^+ \rightarrow N\ell^+$

$$\bar{N} = 1/\sqrt{2}(iN_4 + N_5)$$

$$N = 1/\sqrt{2}(-iN_4 + N_5)$$

Consider, e.g., the “dilepton-dijet” signature at pp colliders,  $pp \rightarrow l_\alpha l_\beta jj$ :



In the symmetry limit of the SPSS benchmark model, lepton number is exactly conserved  
 → only LNC process

$$pp \rightarrow \ell_\alpha^+ \ell_\beta^- jj \text{ (LNC) } \checkmark$$

$$pp \rightarrow \ell_\alpha^\pm \ell_\beta^\pm jj \text{ (LNV) } \times$$

# Heavy neutrino-antineutrino oscillations at colliders

However with perturbations included to generate the light neutrino masses:  
Mass splitting  $\Delta M$  between heavy neutrinos induces oscillations!

Probability that a produced  $N$  oscillates into  $\bar{N}$  (or vice versa) given by  $|g_{-}(t)|^2$ , with

$$g_{-}(t) \simeq -ie^{-iMt}e^{-\frac{\Gamma}{2}t}\sin\left(\frac{\Delta M}{2}t\right)$$

Such an oscillation induces LNV!

Mass splitting  $\Delta M$  predicted  
e.g. in minimal low scale  
linear seesaw models

Signature: Ratio of LNV/LNC final states oscillates as function of heavy neutrino lifetime (or of vertex displacement in the laboratory system)

$$R_{\ell\ell}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{\int_{t_1}^{t_2} |g_{-}(t)|^2 dt}{\int_{t_1}^{t_2} |g_{+}(t)|^2 dt} = \frac{\#(\ell^+\ell^+) + \#(\ell^-\ell^-)}{\#(\ell^+\ell^-)}$$

J. Gluza and T. Jelinski (2015), G. Anamiati, M. Hirsch and E. Nardi (2016),  
S.A.; E. Cazzato, O. Fischer (2017), A. Das, P. S. B. Dev and R. N. Mohapatra (2017)

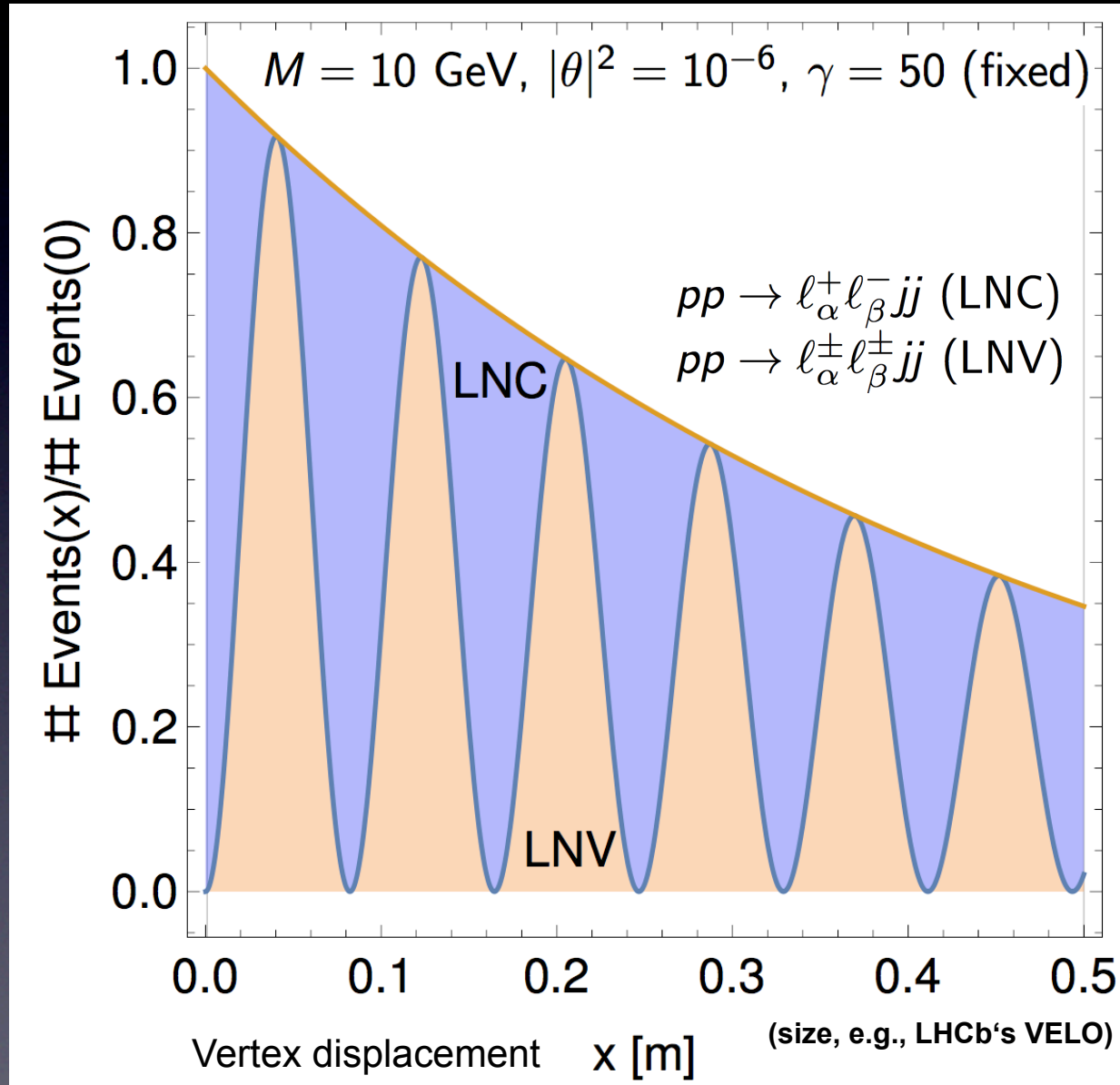
With:  $g_{+}(t) \simeq e^{-iMt}e^{-\frac{\Gamma}{2}t}\cos\left(\frac{\Delta M}{2}t\right)$



# Recent result: Heavy neutrino-antineutrino oscillations at colliders can be resolvable

**Example:**  
**Linear seesaw**  
**(inverse mass ordering)**

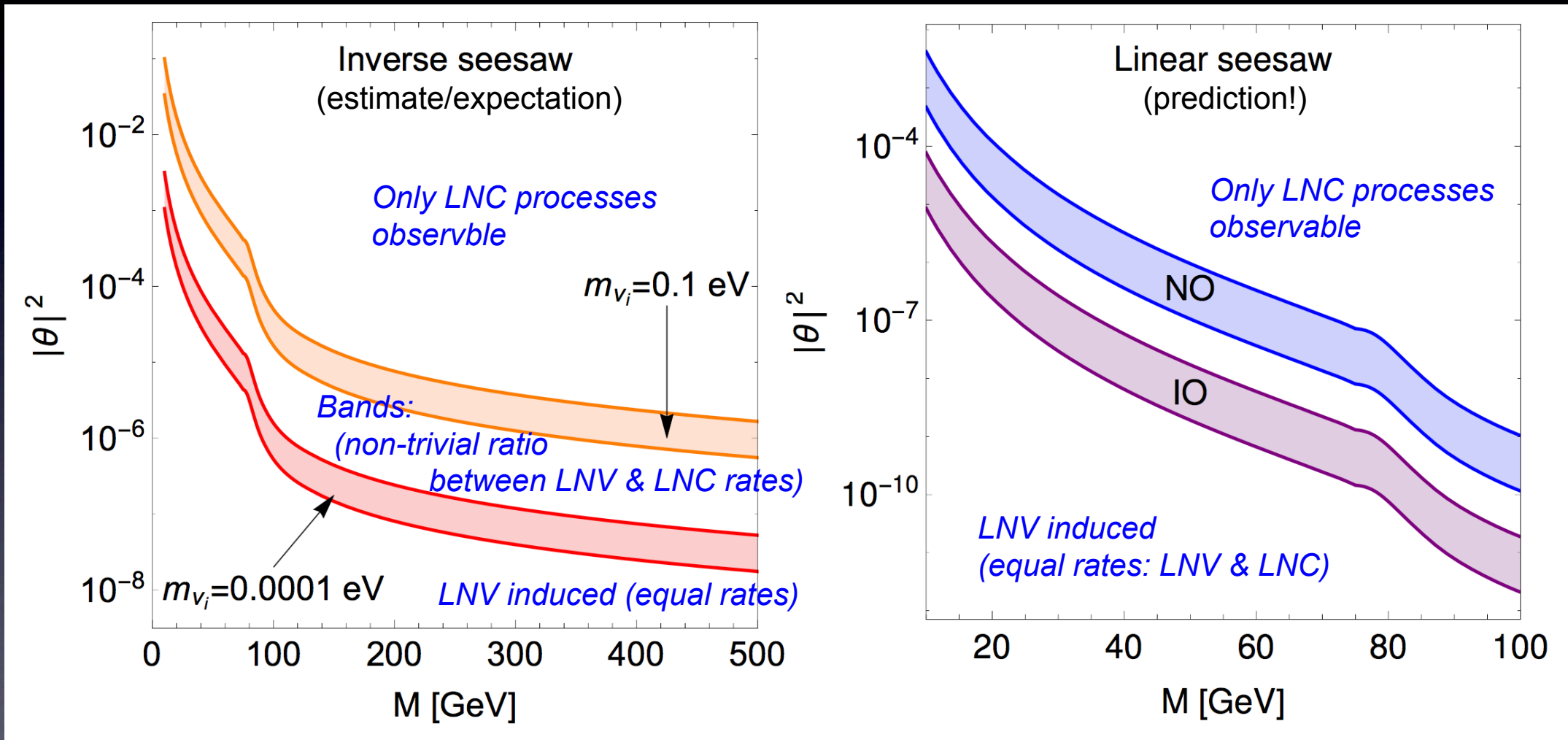
(using the prediction for  $\Delta M$  in the minimal linear seesaw model for inverse neutrino mass ordering)



S. A., E. Cazzato,  
O. Fischer  
(arXiv:1709.03797)

# *Even if these oscillations are not resolvable, induced LNV can be relevant (depends on $\theta^2$ )*

Plot from S. A., E. Cazzato, O. Fischer (arXiv:1709.03797)

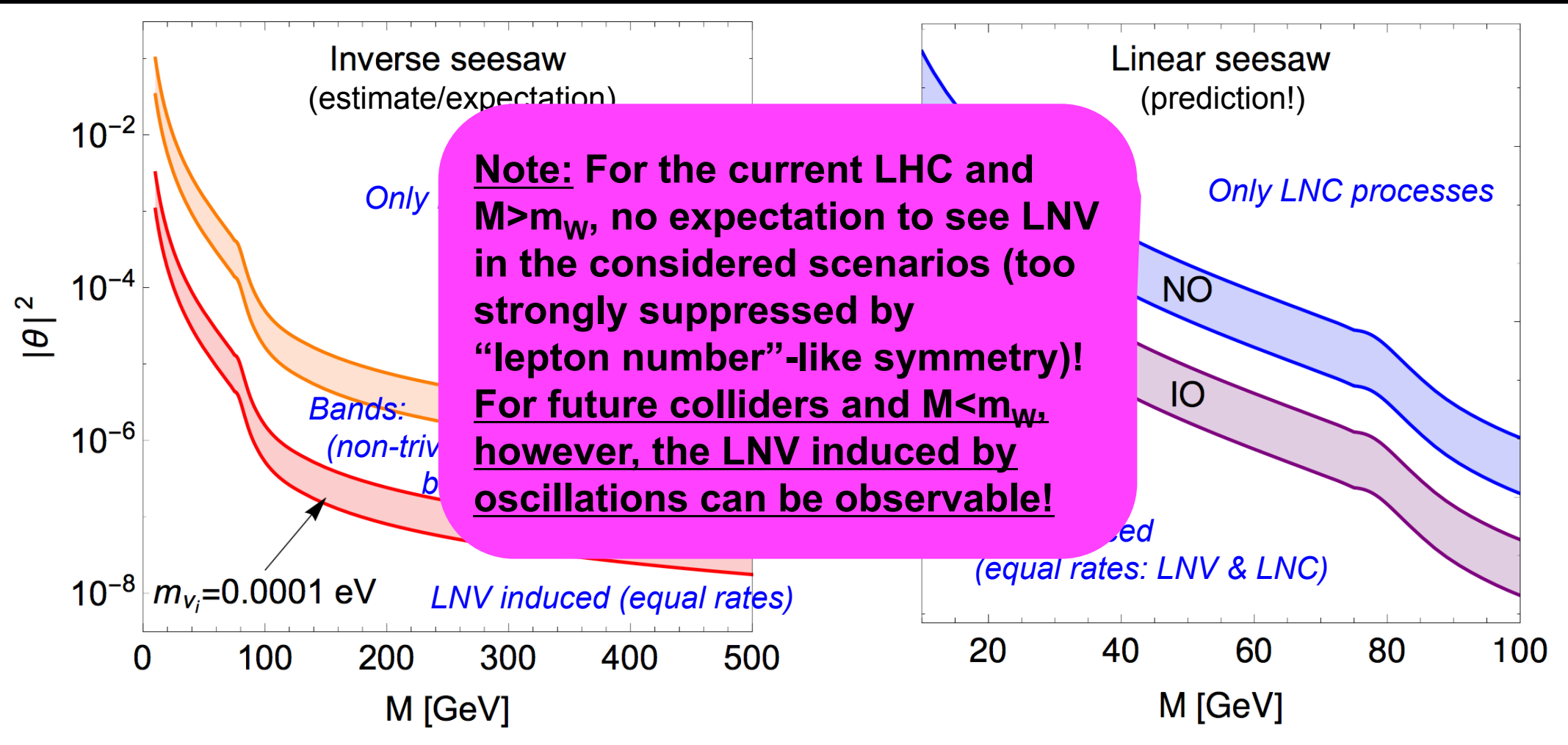


See also: J. Gluza and T. Jelinski (2015), P. S. Bhupal Dev and R. N. Mohapatra (2015), G. Anamiati, M. Hirsch and E. Nardi, JHEP 1610 (2016), A. Das, P. S. B. Dev and R. N. Mohapatra (2017)



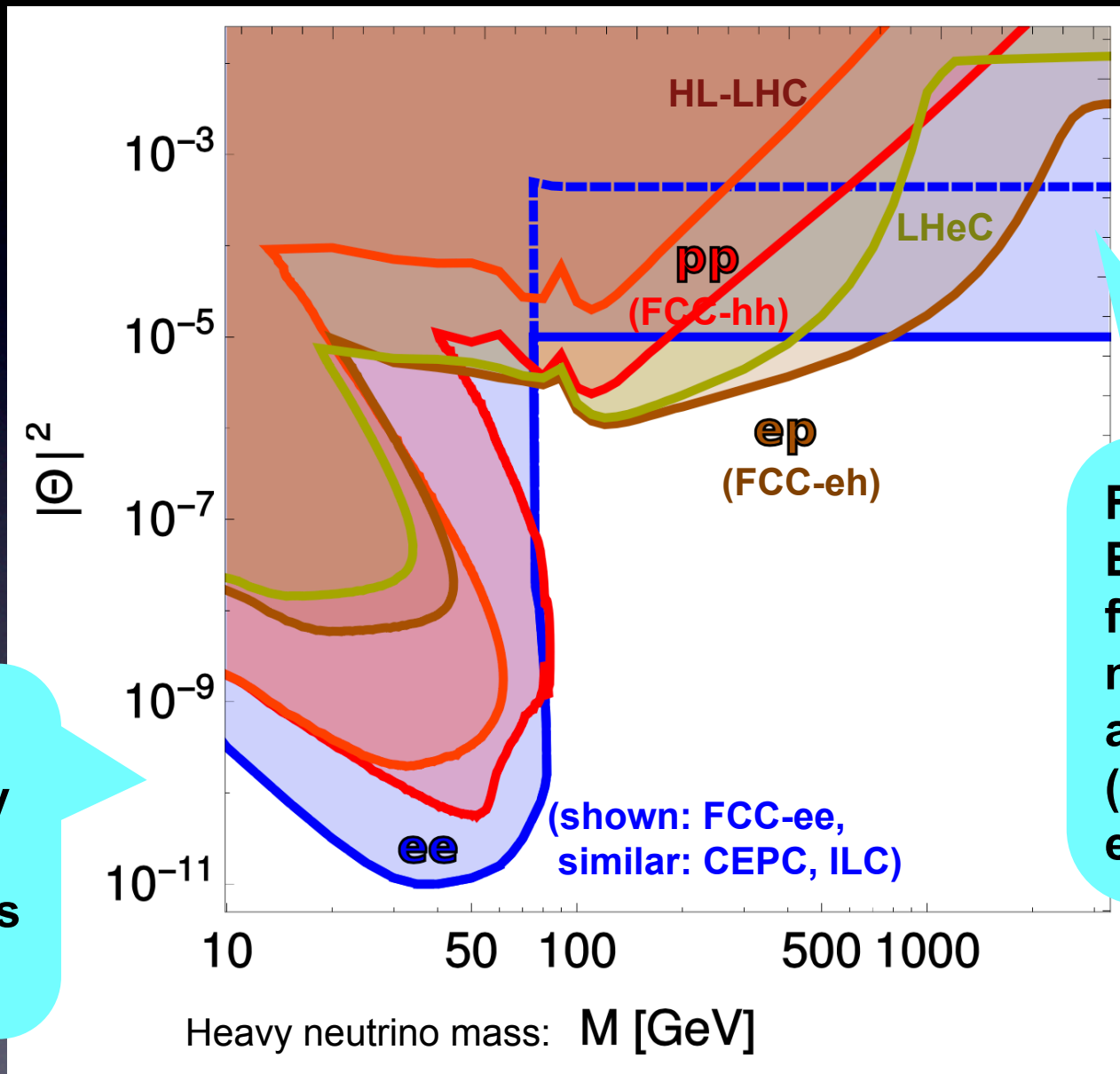
# ***Even if these oscillations are not resolvable, induced LNV can be relevant (depends on $\theta^2$ )***

Plot from S. A., E. Cazzato, O. Fischer (arXiv:1709.03797)



See also: J. Gluza and T. Jelinski (2015), P. S. Bhupal Dev and R. N. Mohapatra (2015), G. Anamiati, M. Hirsch and E. Nardi, JHEP 1610 (2016), A. Das, P. S. B. Dev and R. N. Mohapatra (2017)

# Comparison: Estimated sensitivities at future ee, pp and ep colliders



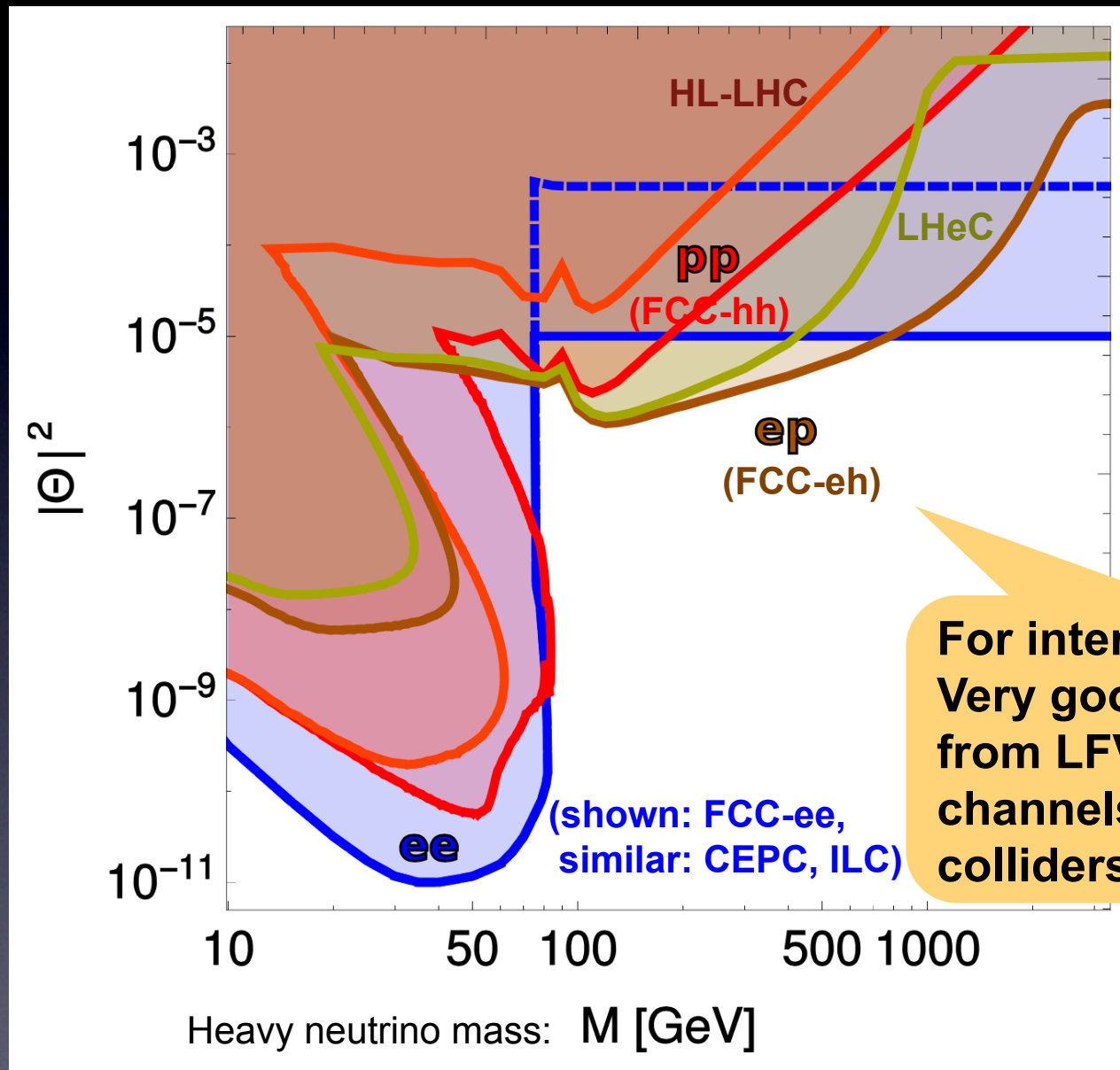
For  $M < m_W$ :  
Best sensitivity  
from displaced  
vertex searches  
at FCC-ee

For  $M \gg O(\text{TeV})$ :  
Best sensitivity  
from EWPO  
measurements  
at FCC-ee  
(also: cLFV, see  
extra slides)

Plot from: S.A.,  
E. Cazzato, O. Fischer  
(arXiv:1612.02728)



# Comparison: Estimated sensitivities at future ee, pp and ep colliders



Note: Sensitivity to different combinations of active-sterile mixing angles!

For intermediate  $M$ :  
Very good sensitivities from LFV (but LNC) channels at pp and ep colliders (FCC-hh & -eh)

Plot from: S.A., E. Cazzato, O. Fischer (arXiv:1612.02728)

# Summary

- Sterile (right-handed) neutrinos are well motivated SM extensions, to explain the masses of the light neutrinos.
- With protective “lepton number”-like symmetry, large  $y_\nu$  and EW scale  $M$  are possible (& technically natural)!
- Using a benchmark scenario (SPSS: Symmetry Protected Seesaw Scenario) we discussed the possible observable effects for EW scale sterile neutrinos.
- Future collider experiments have interesting discovery prospects and, together with neutrino oscillation experiments, have the potential to probe the underlying neutrino mass generation mechanism!



**Thanks for  
your attention!**

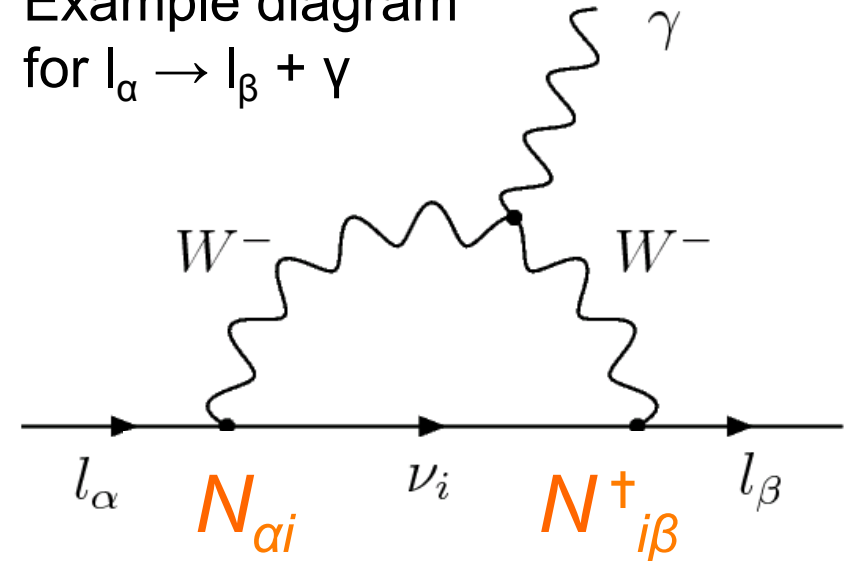
# Extra Slides



# Constraints on PMNS Non-Unitarity from cLFV

- Bounds on LFV  $\mu$  and  $\tau$  decays  $l_i \rightarrow l_j \gamma$  (and on  $\mu \rightarrow 3e$  and  $\mu \rightarrow e$  conversion in nuclei) lead to constraints on the  $|\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}|$ :

Example diagram  
for  $l_\alpha \rightarrow l_\beta + \gamma$



$$\frac{\Gamma(l_\alpha \rightarrow l_\beta \gamma)}{\Gamma(l_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\alpha l_\beta \bar{\nu}_\beta)} = \frac{3\alpha}{32\pi} \frac{|\sum_k N_{\alpha k} N_{k\beta}^\dagger F(x_k)|^2}{(NN^\dagger)_{\alpha\alpha} (NN^\dagger)_{\beta\beta}}$$

irrelevant for unitary mixing matrix, but can lead to sizable Br's for non-unitary N!

$$F(x) \equiv \frac{10 - 43x + 78x^2 - 49x^3 + 4x^4 + 18x^3 \ln x}{3(x-1)^4}$$

where:

$$x_k \equiv m_k^2 / M_W^2$$

$m_k$ : light neutrinos' masses

# Sensitivites of future cLFV searches to active-sterile neutrino mixing $\theta_\alpha$

► Estimated sensitivities of planned experiments at 90% C.L.:

Process	MUV Prediction	Exp. reach	Sensitivity
$Br_{\tau e}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-4}  \varepsilon_{\tau e} ^2$	$10^{-9}$	$ \varepsilon_{\tau e}  \geq 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$
$Br_{\tau \mu}$	$4.1 \times 10^{-4}  \varepsilon_{\tau \mu} ^2$	$10^{-9}$	$ \varepsilon_{\tau \mu}  \geq 1.6 \times 10^{-3}$
$Br_{\mu eee}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}  \varepsilon_{\mu e} ^2$	$10^{-16}$	$ \varepsilon_{\mu e}  \geq 2.4 \times 10^{-6}$
$R_{\mu e}^{Ti}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-5}  \varepsilon_{\mu e} ^2$	$2 \times 10^{-18}$	$ \varepsilon_{\mu e}  \geq 3.6 \times 10^{-7}$

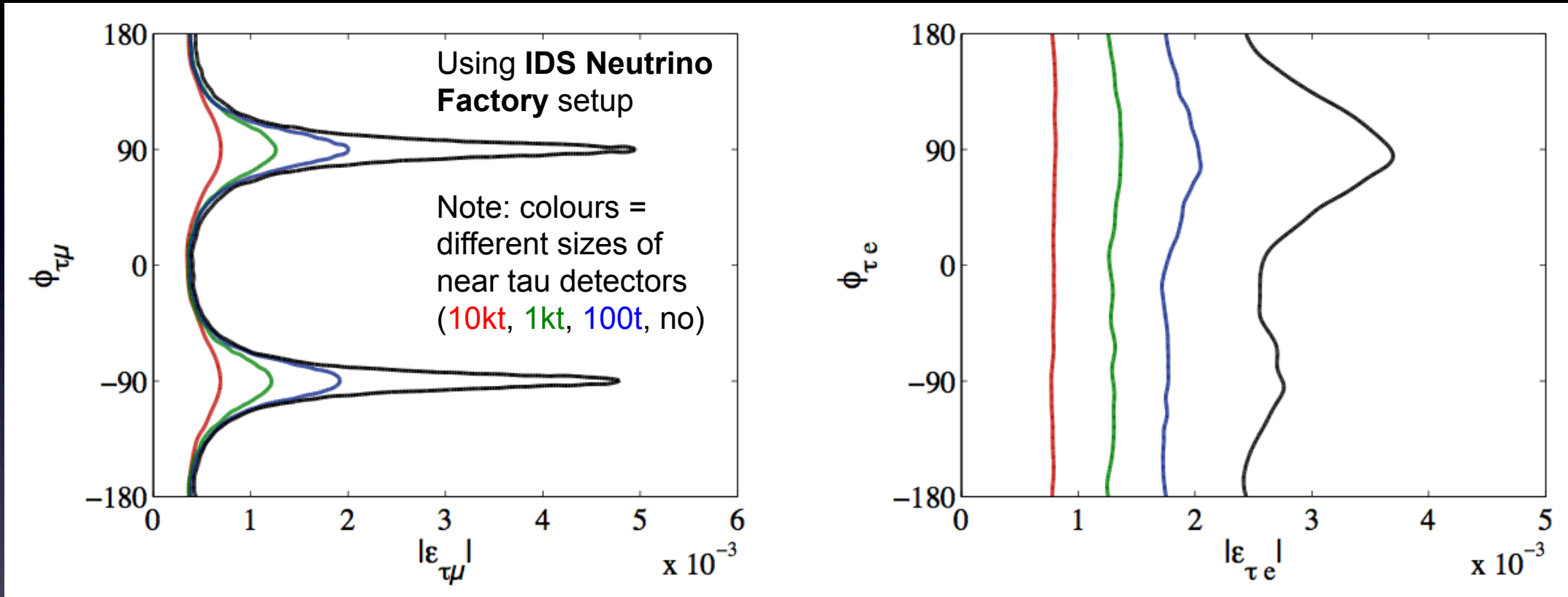
taken from: S.A., O. Fischer (arXiv:1407.6607)

→ Sensitivity to the products  $|\theta_\mu^* \theta_e|$ ,  $|\theta_\tau^* \theta_\mu|$ ,  $|\theta_\tau^* \theta_e|$ , due to the relation

$$\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} = \left[ -\frac{v_{EW}^2 y_{\nu\alpha}^* y_{\nu\beta}}{2M^2} \right] = -\theta_\alpha^* \theta_\beta$$



# Possible sensitivity of future neutrino oscillation experiments $\rightarrow$ phases of $\theta_\alpha$



S.A., M. Blennow, E. Fernandez-Martinez,  
J. Lopez-Pavon (arXiv:0903.3986)

- From the interplay of (tau-sensitive) near and far detectors at, e.g., a neutrino factory, **neutrino oscillations could provide information** on the phase of the non-unitarity parameters  $\epsilon_{\tau\mu}$  and  $\epsilon_{\tau e}$  (i.e. on the **phases of  $-\theta_\tau^* \theta_\mu$  and  $-\theta_\tau^* \theta_e$** )